

Facilitating electronic delivery of participant statements;

Expanding the ability of employers to offer annuities in defined contribution plans;

Encouraging multiple employer defined contribution plans; and

Expanding autoenrollment/autoescalation opportunities for workers.

As Congress considers tax reform, we appreciate your continued support of the current retirement security system. ACLI and its member companies look forward to working with you and your staff to improve retirement security for all Americans.

Sincerely,

WALTER C. WELSH.

ASPPA—WORKING FOR
AMERICA'S RETIREMENT,

June 24, 2013.

Re Letter of Support for the SAFE Retirement Act of 2013

Hon. ORRIN HATCH,
Ranking Member, Senate Finance Committee,
Washington, DC.

DEAR RANKING MEMBER HATCH: On behalf of the American Society of Pension Professionals & Actuaries (ASPPA) and its affiliates, we hereby express our strong support for the SAFE Retirement Act of 2013.

ASPPA is a national organization of more than 15,000 retirement plan professionals who provide consulting and administrative services for qualified retirement plans covering millions of American workers. ASPPA members are retirement professionals of all disciplines including consultants, investment advisors, administrators, actuaries, accountants, and attorneys. The large and broad-based ASPPA membership gives it unusual insight into current practical problems with the Employee Retirement Income Security Act and qualified retirement plans with a particular focus on the issues faced by small- to medium-sized employers. ASPPA membership is diverse and united by a common dedication to the private retirement plan system.

The private retirement system provisions in Title II of the SAFE Act will dramatically simplify the operation of qualified retirement plans by eliminating unnecessary paperwork and traps for the unwary, as well as providing new approaches to expanding the availability of workplace savings through qualified retirement plans, especially small business retirement plans. These common sense proposals will go a long way toward improving the retirement security of millions of working Americans.

ASPPA commends your offering of these proposals, and applauds your commitment to enhancing the private retirement system and the retirement security of our nation's workers.

Sincerely,

BRIAN H. GRAFF, ESQ., APM,
ASPPA Executive Director/CEO.

AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORMS,
JUNE 26, 2013.

Hon. ORRIN HATCH,
United States Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR HATCH: On behalf of Americans for Tax Reform, I write today in support of your new bill, the "Secure Annuities for Employees (SAFE) Retirement Act of 2013." I would urge all senators to support this common-sense, job-creating legislation.

The SAFE Retirement Act provides net tax relief for retirement savings. Title II of the legislation spells out a host of common-sense and long-overdue reforms to our nation's retirement savings laws, especially with regard to small- and mid-sized employers. Pending a final score from the Joint Committee on

Taxation, it seems self-evident that this section alone makes the SAFE Retirement Act a net tax cut for American families and employers.

The SAFE Retirement Act is good public policy for state and local taxpayers. Title I of the bill allows states to opt into an annuity-based alternative (a "SAFE Retirement Plan") to today's under-funded legacy defined benefit pension regime. A state wisely choosing to do so would give taxpayers the assurance that government employees won't strain state government funding obligations into perpetuity—the harsh reality facing many states today as they struggle with meeting the pension promises of an earlier era.

The SAFE Retirement Act builds upon the modernization efforts of the Pension Protection Act of 2006. This bill gives ordinary employers what they've been looking for—a cost-effective, easy to administer, and lower-hassle retirement planning structure they can work with. Common sense reforms like extending elective dates, providing safe harbors, and simplifying paperwork should be able to get broad support. In particular, the "Starter 401(k)" is an idea whose time has come.

The "Secure Annuities for Employees (SAFE) Retirement Act of 2013" is a great example of good, solid legislative blocking and tackling. I look forward to working with you on this legislation as it winds its way through the lawmaking process.

Sincerely,

GROVER NORQUIST.

Mr. HATCH. These letters come from businesses and organizations representing employers, life insurance companies, State insurance commissioners, State guarantee associations, and tax policy groups. These letters demonstrate that the SAFE Retirement Act is good policy and will make good law. America's retirement system deserves no less.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet during the session of the Senate on July 17, 2013, in room SD-628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a legislative hearing to receive testimony on the following bills: S. 235, to provide for the conveyance of certain property located in Anchorage, Alaska, from the United States to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and S. 920, to allow the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa in the State of Minnesota to lease or transfer certain land.

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at (202) 224-2251.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 9, 2013, at 10:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 9, 2013, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Nominations."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 9, 2013, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 192, 193, 194; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that any related statements be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Daniel R. Russel, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (East Asian and Pacific Affairs).

Geoffrey R. Pyatt, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Ukraine.

Tulinabo Salama Mushingi, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Burkina Faso.

ELECTIONS IN AFGHANISTAN

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 94, S. Res. 151.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 151) urging the Government of Afghanistan to ensure transparent and credible presidential and provincial elections in April 2014 by adhering to internationally accepted democratic standards, establishing a transparent electoral process, and ensuring security for voters and candidates.